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Building from scratch
48th FW in Romania

**How will
congestion
charges affect
you?**

Executive officers
A step ahead of the mission



JET 48 Vol. 30 No. 14
Friday, April 11, 2003

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AT A GLANCE

4 COMMANDER'S FORUM

- ❖ Vice commander discusses surety inspection

7-10 NEWS

- ❖ 48th Communications Squadron gets new patch
- ❖ Lakenheath Middle School vice principal soars to new heights.....→
- ❖ Air Force and USAFE awards announced



Photo by Jennifer Fetta

11 AROUND THE AIR FORCE

- ❖ Operation Northern Watch ends
- ❖ POW's family arrives at Ramstein Air Base, Germany



U.S. AIR FORCE

12-13 FEATURE

- ❖ 48th Fighter Wing builds a bridge in Romania



Photo by Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

14 COVER STORY

- ❖ Exec network supports mission



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dean J. Miller

17 SPORTS

- ❖ Stay fit with fitness classes

18 DISCOVER BRITAIN

- ❖ Congestion charges tax London drivers

22 COMMUNITY

- ❖ Eagle Scouts offer painting skills
- ❖ Spring Fayre brightens Spring
- ❖ What's playing? Check out the movie schedules

ON THE COVER

On the cover: Executive Officers of the 48th Fighter Wing (Clockwise from top) Capt. Michael O'Neill, 48th FW command section; 1st Lt. Stacy Gunter, 48th Medical Group; 2nd Lt. Shaye Brotherton, 48th Mission Support Group; 1st Lt. Jennifer Morani, 48th Operations Group; and 1st Lt. Jeff Thompson, 48th Maintenance Group. Photo by Master Sgt. Cesar Rodriguez. For story, see page 14.

Focus set on future surety inspection

BY COL. JOHN SNIDER

48TH FIGHTER WING VICE COMMANDER

As those of us in the Liberty Wing support Operation Iraqi Freedom from here in the United Kingdom and other locations worldwide, it's hard to set our sights several months into the future. However, this summer's Nuclear Surety Inspection directly supports our national strategy of nuclear deterrence. Our nation counts on each and every one of us to maintain the highest standards when training for the nuclear mission. This will be another opportunity to show the rest of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the Air Force the exceptional talents of Team Liberty. Let's set our focus next week and start preparing for another successful local surety inspection.

This summer's visit from the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Inspector General team will also include our first Unit Compliance Inspection in well over five years. This inspection will look at our compliance with the myriad of Air Force, USAFE and local instructions that govern our daily work. Although the inspections will be conducted separately, the NSI is a very narrowly focused compliance inspection, while the UCIs will include all aspects of the wing. We have less than 100 days until the start of the first inspection, and now is the time to tighten down our local programs in order to guarantee our success.

Everyone should begin their preparation

by first conducting a basic review of all the applicable instructions that govern our daily operations. Be on the look out for such key phrases as "the unit will," "is responsible for," "should" and "must." These instructions are directive in nature and these words indicate a requirement that must be followed at the unit level. Second, delve deep into underlying instructions, as quite often the instructions reference other Air Force Instructions, technical orders or publications. Review these underlying instructions for the same key phrases and make sure our programs remain in compliance. Third, download and review the applicable Unit Compliance Guide from the USAFE/IG Web site at www.mil.usafe.af.mil/direct/ig/index.html.

After completing each of these steps, most units and shops will have found at least one item or area that needs more attention. The final step is to follow through and complete the necessary actions and documentation that guarantee our compliance with our Air Force and command-level requirements.

The preparation period and the upcoming inspections will be difficult, especially as we watch the events of Operation Iraqi Freedom unfold. Each member of Team Liberty can be justifiably proud of our contribution to our nation's and our allies' defense. This summer's inspections are another opportunity for Team Liberty to prove just how good we are.

Be vigilant in FP measures

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) – With the U.S. military engaged in combat operations with Operation Iraqi Freedom, anti-war protests are occurring throughout Europe and the world.

The following protest demonstrations are slated to occur within the U.S. European Command during the next few weeks.

All American forces members and their families are reminded to be aware of their surroundings, travel in small groups and vary their movements. In addition, people are asked to let someone know when they will be traveling and the expected return date. Being vigilant in proactive force protection measures is everyone's responsibility, according to officials.

Known events include:

RAF Lakenheath – First Wednesday of every month from 5 to 6 p.m. The Lakenheath Action Group is calling for a demonstration the first Wednesday of every month at Gate 1 at Lakenheath in opposition against nuclear weapons. LAG is calling for a peaceful vigil against the war.

A series of anti-war demonstrations are scheduled throughout England today through Sunday. These demonstrations will affect many RAF bases throughout England over the weekend.

Protesters will stage a non-violent observation at RAF Lakenheath at noon Sunday.

YOUR LINK TO THE COMMANDER

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call 226-2324, fax 7-5637, e-mail (Action.Line@lakenheath.af.mil), send through distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09461-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Building 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, please leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names are confidential.


48th Fighter Wing commander

Laundromat courtesy

I'm sending my thanks and appreciation to you for providing such a nice base laundering facility. I am

referring to the laundromat located across from the theater and car rental agency. It is a great improvement from the previous facility and all of us living off-base truly appreciate it.

However, I would like to suggest placing signs in the facility to remind a few of the patrons to limit use of machines (washers and dryers) to two per family. Occasionally someone will forget that others need to use the machines and occupy three or more of both types.

While I understand that different types of material should not be washed and dried together, it is unfair to others to have to wait unnecessarily. For instance, today a family was using eight dryers. Even though several other customers were waiting to dry clothes,

they could not. This could have become a volatile situation, but everyone remained patient, to their credit.

Again, the new facility is greatly appreciated, but it could use posted reminders to establish guidelines on equitable use of the equipment.

Thank you for the compliment. We couldn't agree more – we do have a first-class laundry facility. This appears to be an isolated case – we have not received any other complaints since the new laundry facility opened for operation. Therefore, in lieu of generating rules governing use (which would be next to impossible to enforce), we ask for all patrons to show their Liberty spirit by helping one another and extending common courtesy to those waiting for the next available machine.

New Comm Squadron patch reflects times

BY SENIOR AIRMAN
CHRISTOPHER WILEY

48TH COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON

Change is a constant in life that always abounds in the military environment. Like others at RAF Lakenheath, members of the 48th Communications Squadron face new uncertainties and changes with imminent deployments looming over the horizon. Part of this change is the unveiling of the new squadron patch.

The new patch was recently approved for use and all will see it around the base and wonder about its origins.

The older patch that was in use for many years has been officially retired. For the 48th CS, this couldn't have come at a more crucial time, when deployment woes have been weighing heavy on the force and morale is being stretched paper-thin. Comparable to a new award or medal, the new squadron patch can be displayed proudly, a symbol of regality and increasing morale among the members of the unit.

The patch is vibrant in color and has a meticulously designed guardant wolf spider in

the center of its web with lightning bolts extending outward. Unlike its predecessor, the new patch incorporates the Latin phrase *INTUS UMBRA NULLUS*, meaning "in the shadow of none."

Senior Airman Yasemin Clark, 48th CS Assistant NCO in charge of Graphics, spent weeks designing the new squadron symbol and submitted her design as part of a squadron contest. As a five-year multimedia communications veteran, she said she believes the approved new patch aptly reflects the multifaceted communications mission.

"Its color scheme is based on Air Force colors of ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow," she said. "The web of the spider is far-reaching, like the capabilities of modern communications and the spider itself represents the constant readiness over their

domain and the superior skill and speed at which they can defend it."

Before the new design and motto went up to the Air Force level for review, it first had to pass a more scrutinizing test – the judgement of the 48th CS.

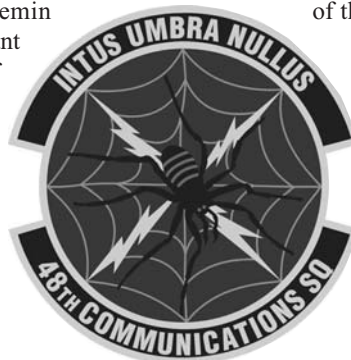
During a fall commander's event, choices for the new squadron patch were unveiled and all unit members got the chance to vote on the design they believed fit them best. Clark's design had unique appeal, standing out from the other six designs submitted.

With the creation of the new patch, her goal was to help unify the unit.

"Most everybody that saw this project from start to finish is here," Clark said. "We have made history

and, it has bonded us together."

Given all the challenges this squadron is dealing with due to world events, it is refreshing to know that this new change is a beneficial one. It will have lasting, historical impact on the esprit de corps of the 48th CS at RAF Lakenheath.



The new 48h Communications Squadron patch

Schedule of available services

Due to current world events, some work areas are experiencing changes in available services or customer service availability. The 48th Fighter Wing regrets any inconvenience these changes may cause. Below is a list of affected areas:

48th Mission Support Squadron

❑ The Military Personnel Flight has longer wait times and will take more processing time.

The 48th Communications Squadron

❑ Longer response time for work orders and outage response calls by technicians
❑ Multi-media center is closed except for the on-call photographer

48th Medical Group

❑ Medical support functions, including the laboratory, pharmacy, radiology, nutritional medicine, TRICARE and resource management, are experiencing delays.

Health and Wellness Center

❑ Health screenings (unofficial body-fat taping, body-fat analysis, blood pressure checks, cholesterol screening) are all on hold at this time.
❑ Official body fat taping is from 8 to 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Dental clinic

❑ Orthodontics is unable to take new cases at this time
❑ Current processing time for dental laboratory cases is about 30 days
❑ Oral surgery is currently experiencing a delay in patient scheduling

48th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Gas mask fit testing

❑ Individual equipment issue is open on a walk-in basis Tuesdays, appointment-only Thursdays
❑ Hospital annex is available for walk-ins and appointments are available Mondays through Fridays.



Photo by Jennifer Fetta

Good to go

Dr. Noni Hoag, Feltwell Middle School assistant principal, gives a thumb's up before climbing aboard a 494th Fighter Squadron F-15E for an incentive ride April 4. She received the chance to fly as a reward for being named 2003 Department of Defense Education Activity Assistant Principal of the Year.

AF, USAFE recognize top airmen

Headquarters Air Force and Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe announced the following annual award winners:

Air Force awards

- **Lt. Col. Marcus Novak**, 48th Munitions Squadron, *Air Force Lt. Gen. Leo Marquez Award Munitions/Missile Maintenance Field Grade Manager*
- **Lt. Col. Rick Czyzewski**, 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron, *Transportation Officer of the Year*
- **Bill Pratt**, 48th LRS, *Senior Civilian of the Year*
- **48th LRS**, *Logistics Plans Unit of the Year*

USAFE awards

- **Tech. Sgt. Gregory Henneman and Staff Sgt. Nancy Huber**, 48th Fighter Wing History Office, *History Program Award Excellence In Wing History Programs, Multi-Person Office Category*
- **Master Sgt. Leslie B. Ingram**, 48th Fighter Wing, *Career Assistance Advisor of the Year*
- **Tech. Sgt. James A. McMurry**, 48th Fighter Wing Safety Office, *Weapons Safety NCO of the Year*
- **Tech. Sgt. Patrick Carroll**, 48th Operations Support Squadron, *Outstanding Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape NCO of the Year*
- **48th Fighter Wing Command Post**, *Command Post of the Year*

USAFE Transportation awards

- **Lisa Sheedy**, 48th LRS, *Local National of the Year*
- **1st Lt. Dave Maxwell**, 48th LRS, *Company Grade Transportation Officer of the Year*
- **48th Logistics Readiness Squadron**, *Squadron of the Year*

3rd Air Force Transportation awards

- **Lt. Col. Nancy Combs**, 48th LRS, *Col. F. Badger Johnson III Senior Supply Manager of the Year*
- **1st Lt. Jerry D. Ruiz**, 48th LRS, *Junior Supply Manager of the Year*

USAFE Medical awards

- **Senior Master Sgt. Stephanie Cardozo**, 48th Dental Squadron, *Outstanding Dental Senior NCO of the Year*
- **Tech. Sgt. John Yun**, 48th Medical Operations Squadron, *Brig. Gen. Sarah P. Wells Outstanding NCO of the Year*
- **Tech. Sgt. Barry Godfrey**, 48th MDOS, *John Salustro Memorial Award for Cardiopulmonary Excellence*
- **Capt. Gary Rice**, 48th Aerospace Medical

See "Awards," Page 10



Photo courtesy of the 48th Fighter Wing History Office

50 years of news

On Nov. 20, 1964, the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing received its first Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The award recognized the outstanding performance in two Operational Readiness Inspections and the important role played by the wing in the strengthening of NATO during the tensest period of the Cold War, between July 1, 1961, and Feb. 29, 1964.



Hometown: Hurst, Texas
Time in Department of Defense Dependents Schools: 17 years
Time on station: Since 1977, but teaching at RAF Feltwell since 1989
Role in school: Library information specialist
Hobbies: Reading, of course, and all kinds of crafts
Favorite book: Usually whatever I am reading at the moment. I love children's books.
How do you contribute to the DODDS mission? I spread the love of books and reading to children, and help children love the library and all it means.
What do you like best about working in DODDS? The opportunity to meet lots of interesting people
If you could change one thing about DODDS, what would it be? I'd have an annual district-wide DODDS-sponsored conference for teachers. This would allow all educators in like fields to share information with each other and to improve our knowledge of current trends. Sometimes we are so isolated here from new ideas and innovations.
What do you like most about being in the United Kingdom? All the interesting places to visit and the climate.
How would you improve life at RAF Lakenheath? Have the base bank open until 4:30 p.m. every day so we could get there after school.
What's the most exciting

experience you've had in England? Seeing the queen and her family at Sandringham
What was the last book you read? Why did you read it? "The



Judy Hersey
Feltwell Elementary School

Future Homemakers of America" by Laurie Graham. I read it because a friend said it was interesting. It is the story of several women who met in the 1950s while their Air Force husbands were stationed in East Anglia. It follows their relationships in the following years.
Who is your favorite leader in history and why? Margaret Thatcher, because she was true to herself and her beliefs. She was such a strong woman who had the courage of her convictions.
What is your philosophy of life and why? Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, because life is too short to waste on disagreements.
What's your favorite region of the United States and why? Texas, because like Dorothy in the "Wizard of Oz" said, "There's no place like home." It has so many different aspects.

“Awards,” from Page 8

Squadron, *Company Grade Officer Aerospace Physiologist of the Year*

❑ **Tech. Sgt. Mark Brandt**, 48th AMDS, *Aerospace Physiology NCO of the Year*

❑ **Lt. Col. Michael Elliott**, 48th AMDS, *Outstanding Field Grade Bioenvironmental Engineer of the Year*

❑ **Staff Sgt. Lindsey Michel**, 48th AMDS, *Outstanding Bioenvironmental Engineering NCO of the Year*

❑ **Capt. Virginia Hays**, 48th MDOS, *Outstanding Air Force Audiologist/Speech Pathologist Of The Year*

❑ **Senior Airman Elizabeth Pelofske**, 48th Medical Support Squadron, *Laboratory Airman of the Year*

❑ **Staff Sgt. Clifford Maitlen**, 48th MDOS, *Occupational Therapy Craftsman of the Year*

❑ **Capt Barbara Hoebe**n, 48th MDSS, *Maj. Michelle Koefred Coleman Company Grade Pharmacist Of The Year*

❑ **Maj. Nadine Griffin**, 48th MDOS, *Outstanding Field Grade Social Worker of the Year*

❑ **Senior Airman Arnaldo Figueroa**, 48th MDSS, *Chief Master Sgt. Michael A. Gambuti Airman Pharmacy Technician Of The Year*

❑ **Senior Master Sgt. Joseph Bulmahn**, 48th MDOS, *Physical Therapy Supervisor/Manager of the Year*

❑ **Senior Airman Jason Douglas**, 48th MDSS, *Public Health Airman Of The Year*

❑ **Tech. Sgt. David Griffin**, 48th MDSS, *Medical Information Systems NCO of the Year*

❑ **Lt. Col. Lorn Heyne**, 48th MDSS, *Maj.*

Gen. Michael K. Wyrick Commitment To Service Award

❑ **Master Sgt. Tanya Yahn**, 48th MDSS, *Outstanding Health Plan Management Senior NCO of the Year*

❑ **Airman 1st Class Jessica Artim**, 48th MDSS, *Outstanding Diagnostic Imaging Airman of the Year*

❑ **Senior Airman Ebony Ward**, 48th MDOS, *Chief Master Sgt. Lewis W. Dunlap Outstanding Airman Of The Year*

❑ **Master Sgt. Timothy Snyder**, 48th MDOS, *Chief Master Sgt. Lewis W. Dunlap Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year*

❑ **Maj. Deborah McBride**, 48th MDOS, *Nurse Corps Medical Service Individual Mobilization Augmentee of the Year*

❑ **Tech. Sgt. Glenn Brass**, 48th MDOS, *Surgical Services NCO of the Year*

❑ **Tech. Sgt. Melissa White**, 48th MDSS, *Outstanding Resource Management NCO of the Year*

❑ **Capt. James Smith**, 48th MDSS, *Outstanding Resource Management Officer of the Year*

❑ **Maj. Michelle Koe**, 48th AMDS, *Col. Floyd M. Morris Field Grade Optometrist of the Year*

❑ **Master Sgt. Larry Oliver**, 48th MDSS, *Chief Master Sgt. Anton Zembrod Award For The Outstanding Diagnostic Imaging Senior NCO of the Year*

❑ **Maj. Duane Meighan**, 48th AMDS, *Outstanding Medical Readiness Officer of the Year*

Spring cleaning for safety

One of the most important ways that cleaning around the house can improve safety is by reducing clutter inside and around the home and garage. While clutter does not start fires, it can become fuel. More fuel makes fires more difficult for the fire department to extinguish. Clutter may also make it more difficult for those in the home to escape when a fire breaks out.

Another important step in the spring-cleaning process is to reduce or eliminate hazardous chemicals in the home. Cleaners, paint and other common household chemicals can fuel a fire and are often hazardous to people's health. Maintain only the amounts needed and be sure to use, store and dispose of household hazardous materials in a safe manner. Never mix chemicals, even when disposing of them. Spring-cleaning can help to improve your fire safety.

(Courtesy of the fire prevention office.)

Officials release F-16 report

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) — Air Force investigators determined that pilot error caused the crash of an Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon on the Utah Test and Training Range on Nov. 13.

According to an Air Combat Command Accident Investigation Board report released Monday, investigators determined the primary cause of the crash was the pilot's loss of situational awareness, resulting from channelized attention and an optical illusion caused by unusual environmental conditions. Channelized attention occurs when the pilot focuses his attention exclusively on one element of the environment, unintentionally disregarding other important information.

The white salt flat covering the range was covered by two to three inches of clear, calm water that created a mirror between the ground and the sky. The mirror effect gave a pilot the illusion that he had unlimited maneuvering space when in fact his aircraft was close to the ground, according to investigators.

Lt. Col. Dillon L. McFarland died in the crash. The aircraft, which was assigned to the 466th Fighter Squadron at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, was destroyed. The cost of the accident is estimated at \$25.4 million.

A-10 crashes in Baghdad

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AFPN) — An A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot ejected safely before the aircraft crashed in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday. The pilot was rescued by coalition ground forces, according to a U.S. Central Command official.

During a press briefing from Qatar, Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said, "The aircraft is believed to (have been) shot down by a surface-to-air missile."

The aircraft crashed near Baghdad International Airport in Iraq at about 2:15 a.m. EDT Tuesday.

The pilot was reported to be in good condition, according to CENTCOM's Combined Air Operations Center officials.



Photo by Maj. Mike Young

Warm welcome

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS) — Members of the Lynch family from Palestine, W. Va., are welcomed to Germany Sunday by Army Brig. Gen. Erwin F. Lessel III, commander of the 86th Airlift Wing and other officials. The family arrived to visit Army Pfc. Jessica D. Lynch, a former prisoner of war being treated by a team of medical specialists at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Lynch was recovered and returned to U.S. control after a successful rescue mission in Iraq April 2. She is assigned to the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas.

ONW fighters wave final goodbye to Incirlik AB

BY TECH. SGT. TAMMY BRUBAKER

39TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (USAFENS) — The last Operation Northern Watch mission flew March 17, but reality that the operation is really over didn't sink in until Monday when the last fighter aircraft roared out of here.

The last fighter planes, eight F-16CJs from the 55th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., departed for home and did their last traditional "wave" goodbye by tilting their fighters from left to right shortly after take off.

As part of the regular Air and Space Expeditionary Force rotation, the 55th EFS has been part of more than 1,400 U.K., Turkish and U.S. troops and approximately 50 aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone in northern Iraq while containing Saddam Hussein's regime for the last 12 years with Operations Provide Comfort and Northern Watch.

"I'm honored to be one of the last to leave Incirlik," said Lt. Col. Jack Forsythe, 55th EFS commander, as he prepared to get seated in the cockpit. "I'm disappointed we weren't able to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom, but I'm ready to move on to something else."

Since OPC ended and ONW began in 1997, more than 40,000 troops rotated through Incirlik to support the mission and more than 36,000 sorties were flown in the last six years alone.

During those sorties, Iraqi surface-to-air missiles and other anti-aircraft systems targeted

ONW aircrews nearly every flight. ONW aircraft patrolling the no-fly zone would respond to Iraqi attacks defensively and when Iraqis threatened ONW's ability to do the mission.

During the operation, the coalition forces at Incirlik experienced a 700-percent turnover rate each year. Deployed active-duty, Guard and reserve Air Force members rotated through here an average of every 90 days as part of the AEF structure.

"We had an outstanding team here — great pilots and a phenomenal maintenance team," Forsythe said. "I worked with people I'll never forget. Coming back after flying a sortie and seeing an excited ground crew is what I'll miss most and always remember."

About half of the people who were deployed to Incirlik in support of ONW returned home while the other half are returning home soon or awaiting further instructions.

During the last decade, a whole generation of aircrew, maintainers and support teams has sharpened their wartime combat skills while supporting ONW and performing the daily routine of deploying, flying, fighting and controlling the Iraqi skies. And, even though the operation is over, the lessons learned during the 12-year enforcement of the no-fly zone will continue to pay dividends in the future.

"Overall, it was a great experience and we all grew from it," Forsythe said. "We got a lot of experience that will serve our country for several years to come. It's going to be an exciting Air Force for the next 10 years."

Building bridges

48th FW leads long-awaited American presence in Romania

BY 1ST LT. CHRIS WATT

458TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY GROUP PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CONSTANTA, ROMANIA – They’ve been waiting for Americans to arrive for nearly 60 years. When World War II ended, many Romanians thought the Americans would next liberate their country from the Soviets’ communist rule. But it would be another five decades of world-changing history and a war in the Middle East before the American military would land in Constanta, Romania, a welcome and long-awaited guest of the Romanian people.

U.S. Air Force and Army troops arrived at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, Romania, in March and are the first American military members to officially set up camp in the former Eastern Block country, with the exception of a few military exercises on the shores of the Black Sea.

The air base, often called MK, is normally used as a civilian and military international airfield. But with civilian service discontinued, the Americans and Romanians are now working together to create and maintain an air bridge to get supplies and people from the European Command area

of responsibility to the U.S. Central Command AOR.

In full view of aging MiG 29 and MiG 21 fighter aircraft, airmen have unloaded and loaded more than 2 billion pounds of cargo from ship, train, truck and the many C-130, C-141, C-17 and C-5 cargo aircraft that land and launch here

every day. Additionally, deployed members of the 48th Fighter Wing have already installed miles of cable and fiber optics around the base.

In fact, of the nearly 50 airmen deployed here from the United Kingdom, more than 40 of them are Liberty Warriors. Most of the airmen were headed to other locations throughout CENTCOM when the call from Romania came in and with it, the chance to build new relationships with a host-nation ally.

While air bridges and bases don’t often get built overnight, the members of the 458th Air Expeditionary Group have come pretty close.

“Within less than 30 hours of our arrival here, we were able to provide 2,700 customers with basic communication,” said Maj. Tony Thomas, 458th Expeditionary Communications Squadron commander, who is deployed here from RAF Lakenheath.

Civil engineers and communications specialists have worked with more than 120 Romanian workers hired from the local area to dig ditches, lay communication cables, build cement pads, rewire and wire buildings and rebuild roads.

More than \$5 million has been spent so far improving the base and supporting the troops stationed here as well as those passing through using the air bridge.

In fact, according to

Thomas, the Romanians and Americans have worked together to lay 16 miles of communication cables to support 800 network accounts, 195 computers, 120 landline telephones and almost 100 land mobile radios. Additionally, 350 mobile phones have been purchased to support base operations.

“The working relationship we have with the Romanians is outstanding,” said Thomas. “They are very accommodating and have a can-do attitude about everything. Some of them even told us, ‘we wish you guys were here 50 years ago.’”

Everyone came together from different bases to work as a team, said Thomas.

“They’ve all been working 12 to 18 hours a day without complaint,” he said. “A few have even pulled 30-hour days to make

sure things are fixed. These people are giving their hearts for this cause.”

“The best thing about being in Romania is just being able to help the war effort,” said Staff Sgt. Shane Wacaster, a 458th ECS base installation and security systems technician, who is also deployed here from the 48th FW. “I told them I’d do anything, – take out the garbage – anything to help the effort.”

And the Romanians seem to be happy the Americans are here, too. In less than a month, the media interest in the base has produced more than 300 media queries and more than 150 newspaper, Internet, television and radio reports from news agencies located all over Romania and Southeast Europe.

The interest in Americans has been ingrained within the culture of Romania for half a century, according to Adriana Rasauteana, a Romanian translator working with the air base. For more than 50 years, Romanian children grew up listening to their parents’ and grandparents’ hopes that Americans would come to Romania. Now that the Americans are here, the Romanians want to know everything about them and want them to stay.

“We are very glad the Americans are here,” Rasauteana said “We have a great future waiting for us.”

“The best thing about being in Romania is just being able to help the war effort.”

Staff Sgt. Shane Wacaster
458th Expeditionary
Communications Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

Airman 1st Class Jacob Hess, a network infrastructure technician, and Jim Rice, with the Air Force Engineering Technical Service, both deployed from the 48th Communications Squadron at RAF Lakenheath, discuss adjustments to the indoor unit of a microwave module.



Senior Airman Ross Ott, a ground radio maintenance technician deployed from the 48th Communications Squadron at RAF Lakenheath, makes adjustments to an indoor unit of a microwave module Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, Romania, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 458th Air Expeditionary Group is currently maintaining an air bridge at the base to transport supplies and people to the Central Command area of responsibility.

Photos by Senior Airman Lakisha Croley

Executive officers

Keeping the pulse of the wing



BY TECH SGT. DEAN J. MILLER

48TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

They foster airmen's careers, keep commanders one step ahead of the mission and solve issues that might otherwise fall to the wayside. They are executive officers and they keep the pulse of the wing.

"They play a tremendous role in our organization," said Col. John Snider, 48th Fighter Wing vice commander. "They help leaders focus their time on what's important to the wing and not just on what today's big issue is. By knowing when something is important, the execs keep the business of the wing on track."

Execs define multitasking; they keep their bosses on schedule, track suspenses, review awards, decorations, performance reports and promotion recommendations. And that's just the beginning.

One responsibility of 1st Lt. Stacy Gunter, 48th Medical Group exec, is quality control for paperwork requiring the commander's signature.

"Corrections are directed so our people are competitive at the major command level and our decorations are strong and meaningful," said Gunter, who also helps coordinate group participation in wing recognition programs.

"Not long ago, our commander secured an incentive flight for Staff Sgt. Deen Herron, who had been named the John Levitow Award Winner at his Airman Leadership School Class," said Gunter. "(Herron's) reaction when the commander told him he would fly in an F-15 was something I'll never forget."

In her second month as 48th Mission Support Group exec, 2nd Lt. Shaye Brotherton is awed by what goes into taking care of airmen and civilians in her group.

"Taking care of the troops involves a lot – including the reports, decorations, awards – ensuring your people get the letters of appreciation they deserve, and dozens of behind-the-scenes activities," said Brotherton. "But by doing things effectively, my staff and I can create more time for the commander to lead the group and not get buried in paperwork."

"A good exec is a step ahead of the commander," said Lt. Col. Joseph Ward, 48th MSG deputy commander. "If the commander knows a big meeting is coming up, the exec should be thinking, 'Have I arranged a pre-brief for the boss?' The commander has to fully understand all the issues ahead of time so he or she can fully articulate those issues."

It seems a lot to ask of a company grade officer – to stay ahead of

the commanders. But only those up to the challenge are chosen for the job.

"The exec must be conscientious and have a good idea of how things operate. Execs have free access to their commanders and can often resolve issues before they get blown out of proportion," said Col. Stephen McGuire, 48th Medical Group commander.

A communications officer by trade, 1st Lt. Jeff Thompson, 48th Maintenance Group exec, works in a world away from the one where he was trained.

In an average month, Thompson and his staff process 70 correspondence packages, 20 to 30 higher-headquarters taskers, 50 decorations and 30 performance reports. He receives more than 1,100 e-mails per month, sends nearly 600 e-mails and reviews 38 different categories of annual award packages. The numbers are comparable to other group execs, but ask him what the toughest part of the job is, and he'll tell you it's going home.

"There's an endless cycle of work; you're never going to finish everything," said Thompson. "For folks who are used to finishing everything by the end of the day, that's a lot to come to grips with. Sometimes you just have to leave things for the next day. You could stay until 9 p.m. every night, but it's just not healthy."

Thompson says his experience as an exec has been a real eye-opener.

"Seeing the amount of concern that an O-6 puts into a captain's promotion package to major can be amazing," said Thompson. "Before I took this job, I really had no idea what level of attention these issues received."

Seeing the big picture is a key task, according to Capt. Mike O'Neill, 48th

FW executive officer. O'Neill, with two years experience, is RAF Lakenheath's veteran exec.

"The most important thing I will take away from this job is seeing the big picture and trying to equate, 'How is that important for the boss right now?'" said O'Neill. "Everyone is doing important work, but I have to effectively align priorities so I'm focusing the boss's attention on the right thing at the right time."

And time can be a rare commodity in a command section. Execs manage the boss's calendar to ensure schedules are kept and the mission continues.

"Our colonels fly two to three days a week, so scheduling time for meetings and to review and sign paperwork isn't easy," said 1st Lt. Jennifer Morani, 48th Operations Group exec.

"It's rewarding to help our people submit a package and see them get promoted or accepted to that program, knowing that your 'dash-dash' or 'semi-colon' might have made the difference," she said.

But with a year on the job, her burner is still lit.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Dean J. Miller

Col. Stephen McGuire, 48th Medical Group commander, discusses a piece of correspondence with 1st Lt. Stacy Gunter, 48th MDG executive officer. Executive officers benefit from being directly mentored by senior leadership.

SPORTS SHORTS

Women's volleyball

RAF Lakenheath women's varsity volleyball meets 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday in the fitness center for tryouts. Anyone who is interested may show up.



Air Force marathon registration

Registration deadline for the 2003 U.S. Air Force Marathon scheduled for Sept. 20 at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, is Sept. 4. A reduced fee for early registration is available until June 30. A 5K fun run and a half marathon have been added. There will not be a marathon team category. It is open to civilians and military. Runners receive a T-shirt and patch. Participants who finish the marathon within eight hours receive a medallion. To register or for more information, visit the marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/>



Men's softball tryouts

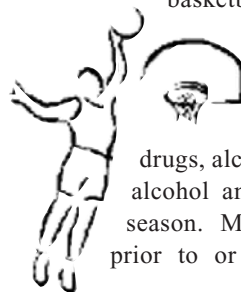
Men's varsity softball team tryouts are at 5 p.m. Monday at softball field three across the street from Taco Bell.



Operation Night Hoops

The Operation Night Hoops basketball league runs through Aug. 22.

Participation is open to boys and girls ages 12 to 18 years at \$25 per player. Volunteer coaches receive training to talk to players about drugs, alcohol and tobacco to convey anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco messages throughout the season. Mandatory workshops are conducted prior to or after designated games.



Bowling news

□ The Fast Lanes Bowling program has been canceled.

□ The finals of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Youth Bowling Championships is today at 9 a.m. at Liberty Lanes Bowling Center. The top eight bowlers from the four age 12 years and older divisions will compete.



Photo by Senior Airman Lynne Neveu

A bowler warms up Wednesday for ages 12 and older boy's scratch division.



Photo by Senior Airman Lynne Neveu

Spring into soccer

Angela Groll, 9, runs through a ball control exercise March 27 to prepare for games at RAF Feltwell. Four age groups participate in games on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the soccer fields across from the furniture store.

Step into aerobics

April fitness classes

Monday

11:30 a.m. – Combat readiness
5:30 p.m. – Step 'n sculpt
6:45 p.m. – Cardio-kickboxing

Tuesday

6:45 a.m. – Readiness circuit
11 a.m. – Mind, body and soul
Noon – Spinnin'
5:45 p.m. – Spinnin'

Wednesday

6 a.m. – Spinnin'
9:45 a.m. – Step 'n sculpt
11:30 a.m. – Combat readiness
12:45 p.m. – Spinnin'
5:30 p.m. – Hi/Lo and abs
6:45 p.m. – Cardio-kickboxing

Thursday

6:45 a.m. – Readiness circuit
11 a.m. – Abs, back and core
Noon – Spinnin'
5:45 p.m. – Spinnin'

Friday

6 a.m. – Spinnin'

9:45 a.m. – Hi/Lo abs

11:30 a.m. – Combat

Readiness

5:30 p.m. – Spinnin'

□ All classes are suitable for military fitness improvement programs.

□ All classes are free and taught by certified fitness instructors.

□ Spinnin' requires issued tickets from the front counter and are available no earlier than 20 minutes prior to class start. Towel and water are mandatory.

□ The 6 a.m. Monday aerobics class will return in May for May Fitness Month.



Discover Britain

By Sal Davidson – Community Relations Adviser



Congestion charges on London roads

Some of you may have heard about the new congestion charge that is implemented for people to drive on the roads in the centre of London. Anyone who drives in the zone from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays) will be charged £5 per day for the privilege.

The zones are clearly painted on the roads with a big red circle and a white 'C.' The boundary of the zone is formed by the inner ring road, where there is no charge to drive.

How do you pay?

You can pay online, by phone, via text message, by post or in person at various outlets. When you pay you will need your vehicle details, the date(s) you want to pay to drive in the zones and a card, cheque or cash to make the payment.

Online: Pay by credit card online at www.cclondon.com

Phone: Call the call centre, which is open 24 hours a day, on (0845) 9001234

Pay in person: In cash at any of the 9,500 paypoints throughout the United Kingdom, located at various shops and petrol stations, etc.



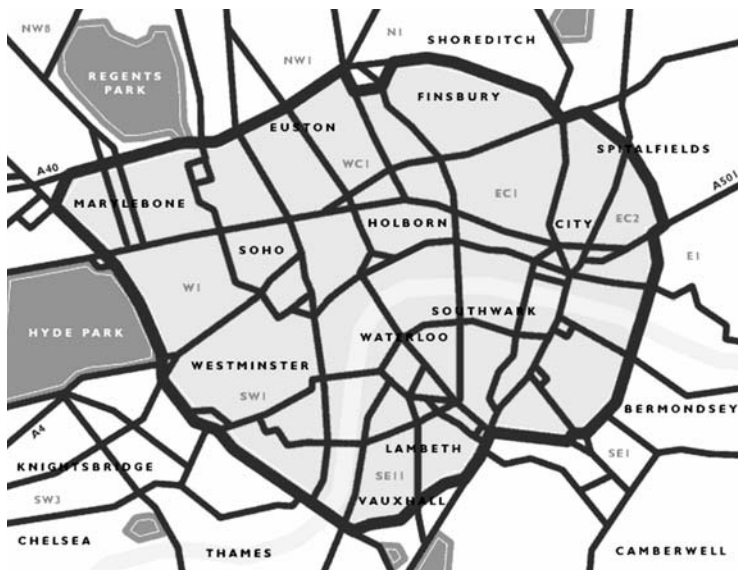
There are 200 places within the zone and 1,200 within the M25. The nearest paypoint to RAF Lakenheath is the Londis store, 422 Thetford Road in Brandon: (01842) 811015. To locate a paypoint, you can do a Web search at www.paypoint.net-city.co.uk or call (0800) 0969000.

Text message: Register for the short message service on www.cclondon.com or call the centre on (0845) 9001234. You need to register your vehicle registration number along with your credit card details. Once you have registered, you text the last four digits of your credit card to 81099, which deducts the payment. You then get a text back, which is important, as this is your receipt to confirm you have paid successfully.

Post: You can send a completed form, which you can download from the above Web site, with your credit card details or a cheque stating the day you plan to travel.

When can you pay?

You can pay before midnight on the day you travel or up to 90 days



Courtesy graphic

Congestion charge roads are in the shaded area to the interior of, but not including, the wide band.



Courtesy photo

Traffic backed up on Oxford Road in London

prior to your journey. If the charge is paid between 10 p.m. and midnight on the travel day, there is an additional £5 surcharge, so it's a not a good idea to leave things until the last couple of hours.

Be warned, if you forget to pay the charge before midnight on the day of travel, then your car registration details will be captured by mobile patrol units and cameras installed at every entry and exit point, and in-turn generate a fine, which is £80. If you pay this fine within two weeks, then it will decrease to £40, but if you fail to pay it within a month, then it increases to £120. Eventually, non-payment could lead to the violator facing a court appearance.

Hire cars

You must still pay the charge if you hire a rental car. You should check with the hire company as some have already included this in their price, but it is the driver's responsibility to ensure the charge is paid. It's the driver who will eventually be traced to pay the overdue penalties, which could be a substantial amount of money.

Who is exempt?

There are some exemptions to the rule such as taxi drivers, people who hold disabled badges for their cars, motorcycles, buses and the emergency services.

Why have the charges?

The mayor of London hopes that these charges will cut congestion in central London by up to 15 percent and raise at least £130 million a year to put back into improving the capital's transport system.

Sal's advice

For people used to driving to one of the tube stations on the outskirts of London to park and ride, you should consider these charges mean many commuters now do the same to avoid this. This means the car park spaces are now harder to find. To check what tube car parks there are and their capacity, visit www.thetube.com/content/carpark/.

You should also check the tube service schedule on www.thetube.com before you travel as the Central Line has recently been out of service on part of its route due to a derailment in January. Keep up to date with the developments before travelling.



Briefs

Limited medical services

The following areas are affected by limited services:

- ☐ Expect longer wait times at sections such as pharmacy, laboratory and radiology.
- ☐ Both health and wellness centers have discontinued health screenings and have restricted hours for body fat tapings.
- ☐ Dental is not accepting new patients for orthodontic treatment, but will continue to treat patients currently receiving treatment.

Housing office closure

The housing management office closes at noon Thursday through April 21. The office opens at 10 a.m. April 22.

Leave contact numbers

When taking leave, ensure a good contact number is on the leave form. For more information, contact your respective orderly room.

Family day

April 18 is a family day for RAF Lakenheath members. Check with your unit for details.

RAF Mildenhall commissary hours

The RAF Mildenhall commissary opens Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and is closed Sundays.

Community assessment survey

The 2003 community assessment survey is held during April and May. The survey is due the first week of June.

Teacher of the year nominations

Letters of nomination for Department of Defense Education Activity teacher of the year are due the respective school principal by July 31. Completed applications must be received at the district school office by Aug. 29.

Marriage class

The RAF Lakenheath Chapel hosts a marriage counseling seminar from 9 a.m. to noon April 26 at the chapel. Sign up at the chapel by April 21. Wee Joy is available for children age 12 to 48 months.

Events

Retiree appreciation events

The 48th Services Squadron offers special events and discounts at squadron facilities for Retiree Appreciation Day, April 25.

CHAPEL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Catholic

PALM SUNDAY

- ☐ Mass (Lak) – 9:30 a.m.
- ☐ Mass (Feltwell) – 11:30 a.m.

LENTON RECONCILIATION - WEDNESDAY

- ☐ Service (Lak) – 6 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY

- ☐ Mass (Lak) – 6 p.m.
- ☐ Songs from Jesus Christ Superstar and Eucharistic Vigil until Midnight - 7:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

- ☐ Liturgy (Lak) – 6 p.m.
- ☐ Songs from Jesus Christ Superstar and Eucharistic Vigil until Midnight - 7:30 p.m.
- ☐ Daily Mass – 11:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (Lak)
- ☐ Communion Service – 11:30 a.m. Wednesday

Protestant

PALM SUNDAY

- ☐ Gospel Service (Lak)– 8:00 a.m.
- ☐ Protestant Service (Felt) – 10:00 a.m.
- ☐ General Service (Lak) – 11 a.m.
- ☐ Contemporary Service (Lak)– 6 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

- ☐ Service – 2 p.m.
- ☐ Higher Ground Service – 7 p.m.

☐ Jewish Services are at 6 p.m. at the Mildenhall Chapel, the second and fourth Friday of each month and on every third Saturday at 10 a.m.



Painting with Eagles

Jason Holmes, Matt Palandech and Ryan Bliss, three of four new Eagle Scouts on base, paint a building on base April 4. Justin Erwin is not pictured. Only 2 percent of Boy Scouts achieve the honor of Eagle Scout.

Photo by Maj. Francisco G. Hamm

Spring Fayre

The RAF Lakenheath Community Center hosts a Spring Fayre noon to 4 p.m. May 3 at the community center and surrounding areas. There will be a magic show, stilt walkers, car show, bike rodeo, barbecue and beverages.

War gaming

The Royal Air Force War Gaming Association meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month for war, role play and collectible card gaming.

Volunteer appreciation luncheon

The family support center hosts its annual volunteer appreciation luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 25 at the Liberty Club.

Youth

Attention Deficit seminar

Feltwell Elementary School hosts an Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder seminar from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Thursday. Clinical psychologist James J. Kehr, Ph.D., offers information on coping techniques to deal with the challenges of school and peers, the general medical description of ADHD and ways to deal with behavior problems. The seminar is free, but seating is limited.

Poster and essay contest

The family support center conducts an essay contest and poster competition for pre-, elementary, middle and high school students. The competition topic is “Why military children are special.” Essays are one page, typed and double spaced on white, 8.5-by-11 inch paper. Posters are also on white, 8.5-by-11 inch paper. Entry deadline is 4 p.m. April 18 at the RAF Lakenheath or RAF Mildenhall family support center.

Classes

Family support center

The family support center offers the following classes this week:

Monday

11 a.m. – Mandatory pre-separation briefing

Tuesday

8:30 a.m. – Transition assistance three-day seminar (Tuesday to Thursday)

Noon – Heart’s Apart lunch

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. – Questions and answers about living in Britain (Held at Beri Tree’s Coffee House)

10 a.m. – Sponsor training

3 p.m. – Pet scoop

6 p.m. – Bereavement support group

7 p.m. – Spouse pre-deployment briefing (community center)

Thursday

8 a.m. – Married personnel pre-deployment briefing (community center)

10:30 a.m. – Single personnel pre-deployment briefing (community center)

2 p.m. – U.K. home buying

MOVIES

RAF Lakenheath 226-2139

Today

6:30 p.m., *A Guy Thing*, PG-13, starring Jason Lee and Julia Stiles. Paul tells a teensy lie, which turns into a bigger lie. From his bachelor party to the wedding, soon his lies are spiraling out of control. It’s amazing how much can change because of one little thing.

9:30 p.m., *DreamCatcher*, R, starring Donnie Wahlberg and Jason Lee. Four young friends perform a heroic act and in the process are transformed forever by receiving special powers. Years later, now grown, the four reunite for a hunting trip in the Maine woods. The trip is soon interrupted by a stranger, and the friends must band together to battle a mysterious alien force as the future of the Earth hangs in the balance.

Saturday

1:30 p.m., *Treasure Planet*, PG, animated. Fifteen-year-old Jim Hawkins joins the crew of an intergalactic expedition as cabin boy aboard a glittering space galleon. Befriended by the ship’s cook, a charismatic cyborg named John Silver, Jim blossoms under his guidance and shows the makings of a fine spacer as he and the alien crew battle supernovas.

4 p.m., *Kangaroo Jack*, PG, starring Jerry O’Connell and Anthony Anderson. Two friends from Brooklyn are forced to deliver mob money to Australia. When one of them places his red jacket on a kangaroo and the kangaroo bounces off, they realize the mob money is in the jacket and are forced to give chase through the Outback.

6:30 p.m., *DreamCatcher*, R

9:30 p.m., *DreamCatcher*, R

Sunday

1:30 p.m., *Kangaroo Jack*, PG

4 p.m., *Treasure Planet*, PG

6:30 p.m., *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, PG-13, starring Elijah Wood and Sean Astin. The second in the Tolkien trilogy. Frodo the hobbit braves terrible dangers in an attempt to have the evil ring destroyed.

Monday

6:30 p.m., *A Guy Thing*, PG-13

Tuesday

6:30 p.m., *Two Weeks Notice*, PG-13, starring Sandra Bullock and Hugh Grant. George doesn’t make a move without Lucy, his chief counsel at Wade Corp. It’s not the job that’s getting to he, it’s George. After five years of calling the shots, on everything from his clothes to his divorce settlements, Lucy is calling it quits. Is it ever too late to say “I love you?”

Wednesday

6:30 p.m., *DreamCatcher*, R

Thursday

6:30 p.m., *Just Married*, PG-13, starring Ashton Kutcher and Brittany Murphy. Two young newlyweds from a wealthy family find that the perfect honeymoon in Venice is turning out to be the worst one imaginable. Can the marriage, which many of their friends and family said was a bad idea, survive the celebration?



RAF Mildenhall 238-2351

Today

6:30 p.m., *The Core*, PG-13, starring Aaron Eckhart and Hillary Swank. Geophysicist Dr. Josh Keyes discovers an unknown force has caused the Earth’s inner core to stop rotating. With the planet’s magnetic field rapidly deteriorating, the atmosphere literally starts to come apart at the seams with catastrophic consequences. To resolve the crisis, Keyes, along with a team of the world’s most gifted scientists, travels into the Earth’s core in a subterranean craft piloted by terranauts, Maj. Rebecca “Beck” Childs and Col. Robert Iverson. Their mission: detonate a device that will reactivate the core.

9:30 p.m., *Darkness Falls*, R, starring Chaney Kley and Emma Caulfield. Kyle Walsh must return home to confront his troubled past and save his childhood sweetheart Caitlin and her younger brother Michael from an unrelenting evil that has plagued the town of Darkness Falls for more than 150 years.

Saturday

6:30 p.m., *The Core*, PG-13

9:30 p.m., *The Core*, PG-13

Sunday

6:30 p.m., *Darkness Falls*, R

Monday

6:30 p.m., *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, R, starring Sam Rockwell and Julia Roberts. Chuck Barris, Gong Show host and creator of *The Newlywed Game* and *The Dating Game*, was recruited by the CIA and trained to become a covert operative. As he basks in the glamour of two worlds, television producer by day, CIA assassin by night, his life begins to spiral out of control.

Tuesday

6:30 p.m., *The Core*, PG-13

Wednesday

6:30 p.m., *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*, R

Thursday

6:30 p.m., *The Core*, PG-13